

Interview with Aunt Phoebe Boyd, Dunnsville, Virginia 1935

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Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Seed come up you know they just as fine as they can be. And the ah, leaves come over [this side (?)]. And you set them out, just take them little leaves together you know, and set them down in the ground. In the [land (?)]. Or plot of [dirt (?)], or, or [chip (?)] something right on the [bud (?)], till it take root.

Emily: Take root?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Yeah, that's the way I did [rooting (?)], that's the way everybody do.

Emily: Ahha.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: That's way they [set (?)] roots to do. That, that plant come at the row.

Emily: Ummm.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: I had five rows t, to fill.

Emily: Well, are you ??? ?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Yeah, ma'am. I got something for this, [put his tools (?)] tobacco and you won't see.

Emily: Hope you didn't chew it. I hope.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: No, I smoked it. I don't chew. *[laugh]*

[Mrs. John Faulconer Ware (?)] : They don't chew?

Emily: You do sometimes.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: No, ma'am.

Emily: You don't?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: [*mumbles*] Uh-uh.

[Mrs. John Faulconer Ware (?)]: Smoke a pipe?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Yes. [*laugh*]

Emily: She likes being mighty fine lately. She asked do you smoke a pipe?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Yes, ma'am. Because every night make a [fire in stove (?)] in my room.

Emily: Ahha.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: You know where I cook at I don't bother it. When I finish. Cook it.

Emily: Yes.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: And I going and make a fire got a ??? in my room.

[Mrs. John Faulconer Ware (?)]: ???

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Afterwards, when I heat that room, getting my papers smoke as many as I want to ??? . [*laugh*]

Emily: Yes, [indeed (?)]. That's right.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Well. And I tell you, the tall, the tall, ah, the tall ??? [some folks (?)] ah now, ah, now this here school our, one of our school teachers.

Emily: My Aunt [Tiva (?)].

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: No.

Emily: Was a school teacher. Tell us about the school teacher.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: She told, asked me did I raise tobacco? I told her, "No." I told her I was, school teacher up here at the school.

Emily: Yes. ??? .

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Yes.

Emily: Yeah. I know.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: She said, "If you raised tobacco, you can, sell your tobacco make good money off it."

Emily: ???

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Carry it to the [tobacco factory (?)].

Emily: Ummm.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Carry it, have tons of it.

Emily: Yeah.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: And would carry it to tobacco factory and it would have it put up just as nice as nice can be.

Emily: Ummm.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Well, now you see these tobacco while it's in these bags and things—

Emily: Yeah. I know.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: —there ain't nothing in the world, there ain't a thing in the world what we do here as good as this; and they, I tell them to, "Just put in these bags and [*laugh*] ??? ." ??? all that. And you may take a cigarette, and I tell them, "[Smoke crazy (?)]." [*laugh*] That's true. [They won't do it (?)].

Emily: No.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Well, Mr. Hoskins, Mr. Hoskins, Mr. Hoskins got a hospital. It's true.

Emily: I know. He built a hospital.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Right. And he was retired. And, and now ah now them there them, them cigarettes is nothing in the world but dope in them. He can't fool me.

Emily: He told me he ??? .

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: And they you know light up, light, ma-may light one now, take a piece of white paper, lay the whole over like that and that paper turn dark as can be, that's exactly, exactly the way it is on your lungs.

Emily: Ahmm.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Because I hear talk about a young man who was in the city in Baltimore. It was in Baltimore I think, smoking these cigarettes and he got sick and it settled on his lungs. And it comes from a thing in the world but smoking cigarettes and I tell them now—

Emily: Ahha.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: —they can, if you want to make them, make them. But these cigarettes, I wouldn't smoke them. [*laugh*] Nothing. And ah, we used to always raise tobacco. Raised tobacco and you can store it, just store it any way you want.

[Mrs. John Faulconer Ware (?)]: Ever raise cotton, Mrs. Phoebe? Did you ever raise any cotton?

Emily: Phoebe?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: [*laugh*] I wish I had had some seeds in here.

[Mrs. John Faulconer Ware (?)]: You can, do you know how to, what to do with grain?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Certainly!

Emily: Well I [never made (?)] does, it looks mighty ??? when it's growing, doesn't it?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Want me tell you?

Emily: Yeas. I'd love to hear about that.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Want me tell you?

Emily: Yes.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Let me tell the world, George Tripper is your uncle, isn't he?

Emily: Yes, he is.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Your uncle.

Emily: Yeah. My uncle.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Your uncle.

Emily: Yeah he is, my half uncle.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: [*big laugh*] You know you belong from the big farm?

Emily: Yeah. I know.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: That field over down there what ??? people.

Emily: Well he ??? .

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Well, ??? . [*screeching laugh*]

[Mrs. John Faulconer Ware (?)]: That's all right. That's all right.

Emily: He's a, he's a Whittington.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Is he?

Emily: Yes.

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Would you know a thing about that man? I done been in his ??? .

Emily: But he raised tobacco?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: Who? Tom Tripper?

Emily: Cotton. Did he raise cotton?

Aunt Phoebe Boyd: No, ma'am. I'm asking you about him. Because he lived in that house right there, you know, is a turn, you know. Right—

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